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97.1526.



17. 1526.







“My lips will be fain when I sing unt
thee : and so will my soul whom thou has
delivered.”

Psalm 71 v. 21 Prayer-Book Translation.



SELECT PORTIONS
OF THE
PSALMS OF DAVID;

TAKEN FROM THE
AUTHORIZED VERSIONS
AND ARRANGED FOR
CONGREGATIONAL AND FAMILY WORSHIP;
WITH SOME
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS,
BY
GEORGE HENRY SHIELD, M.A.

Rector of the Parish of The Holy Trinity, Exeter.

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X

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE importance of Psalmody, as a service both pleasing to the Almighty and pregnant also with spiritual benefits to man, is evidenced by the manner in which it is enforced in the recorded examples and exhortations of those who “spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” Throughout the Old Testament Scriptures it is to be recognized as a leading feature in the worship, and as a prominent object in the daily inclinations, of Believers. They were wont to say “let us come into His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with *psalms*.”—(Ps. xcv, 2.) The glad emotic

of each pious heart was "the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my *song*."—(Is. xii, 2.) The utterance of prayer and thanksgiving was ever and anon poured forth in the tuneful unison of the congregational hymn. Not simply as a grateful expression of individual devotion—not merely as a channel of soothing and holy yet isolated sensations to the heart—not only under the influence of personal trial, privilege, wishes, hopes, or fears—but, with the amalgamated and overwhelming sense of fellowship with all who should receive the word of God, each Believer in his generation clung to the use of *Congregational Psalmody*—as to a duty, which the will of God did for ever consecrate and bless,—saying "awake *psaltery* and harp, I myself will awake right early.—I will praise Thee, O Lord, *among the people*." To quote the various passages which, in the Old Testament Scriptures, place before us the duty of thus tendering *our poor praises* for Divine acceptance,

would be, owing to their multitude, impracticable in the present instance. The reader is, therefore, simply reminded on this head that, touching the event which beyond all others in the olden time assured mankind of the Divine purposes of Love, (viz: the consecration of Zion as the spot where God's revealed glories would for a period vouchsafe their presence,) an inspired tongue declared, "they have seen Thy goings, O God—even the goings of my God the King—in the Sanctuary. The singers went before; the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels playing with the timbrels."—(Ps. LXVIII, 24, 25.) Which glowing description was immediately followed by the brief but significant appeal to hearts over whose sympathies the previous words of joyous privilege would not sweep without leaving an impression, "*bless ye God in the Congregation—Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O Sing praises unto th*

Lord !"—(ib. 26, 32.) Such an exhortation, so introduced and enforced, may well suffice as a summary of *Old Testament* instruction respecting the duty and importance of congregational singing.

And the inculcation of the *New Testament* is precisely to the same effect. "*An hymn*" concluded the solemn institution of the Lord's Supper, and preceded the awful scenes of our Redeemer's agony.—(Matt. xxvi, 30.) Imprisoned Apostles "*sang praises,*" as well as offered prayer "*unto God ;*" doubtless reverting to a mode of worship, which had been habitual to them in their ministrations when at large.—(Acts xvi, 25.) And in those comprehensive regulations, which the Holy Spirit empowered St. Paul to prescribe for the Christian Church to the end of time, we find the following explicit language : "*Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart*

to the Lord.”—(Ephes. v, 18, 19.) “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”—(Coloss. III, 16.) More, surely, of quotation from the New Testament cannot be with reason required in order to establish a conviction that, if under the former Dispensation Congregational Singing was a mode of worship at once beneficial to the soul of man and agreeable to the will of God, it did not lose one jot either of its importance or of its obligation when the coming of Christ had rendered the Mosaic ceremonial obsolete by realizing the spiritual blessings therein typified. On the contrary, the song of assembled believers was obviously to outlast earth and time; for—generation after generation having, according to their extent of privilege, glorified God in the hymns as well as other Service of the Church,—we are told that in Hear

they shall fulfil these bright words: "*having the harps of God, they sing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb.*" (Rev. xv, 2, 3.)

Thus instructed by Holy Writ, the Church, of which we are by Divine Grace Members, has taken care to render *Singing* a very prominent feature in the worship which her ritual embodies. Accordingly, after the Lessons at Morning and Evening Prayer, fervent Hymns are introduced; which offer adoration to Him, whose we are and whom we serve, either in the exact language of Scripture or else in terms expressive of its signification. And, at other times, are wont, to be sung the *Psalms of David*—for reasons, which will best be conveyed by the words of the venerable Hooker: "What is there necessary for man to know which the *Psalms* are not able to teach? repentance unfeigned, unwearied *patience*, the mysteries of God, the sufferings of Christ. the terrors of wrath, the

comforts of grace, the works of Providence over this world, and the joys of that world which is to come, all good necessarily to be either known or done or had, this one celestial fountain yieldeth. Let there be any grief or disease incident unto the soul of man, any wound or sickness named; for which there is not in this treasure-house a present comfortable remedy at all times ready to be found. Hereof it is that we covet to make the *Psalms* especially familiar unto all. This is the very cause why we iterate the *Psalms* oftener than any other part of Scripture besides." (Book V. ch. xxxvii., 2.) "The Prophet David was farther the author of adding unto poetry *melody* in public prayer, melody both vocal and instrumental, for the raising of men's hearts and the sweetening of their affections towards God. In which considerations the Church of Christ doth likewise at this present day retain it as an ornament to God's service and an help'

our own devotion." (Book V. ch. xxxviii, 2.) For the reasons so forcibly alleged by this eminent author, a metrical arrangement of David's inspired writings, set to plain and solemn tunes such as are adapted to congregational use, has formed an impressive and invaluable feature in the parochial services of our Reformed Church. The influence of this portion of our public worship is incalculable. The emotion which it kindles, and the truths which it is (under Divine grace) a means of conveying, entwine themselves in the memory ; and are felt to the latest moment of earthly existence. So precious an auxiliary is it to the Church in disseminating the knowledge of the Most High, and to the individual in strengthening his devout desires, that there must ever exist in the records of Faith's struggles this grateful acknowledgment : "*Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage !*" in other words, *the hymn of adoration has been my remem-*

brancer as to duty, and also a channel oftentimes of “grace to help” me in discharging it!

Directed by the Word of God to pour forth in *Sacred Song* both supplications and praises before the Throne of Grace, and supplied in the Book of *Psalms* with Divinely-indited expressions whereby to convey the varied feelings of his devotion, the Christian finds two considerations necessarily forced upon his reflection.

1. Is he a *listener*, when his voice ought to be swelling the sound of the Congregation’s “spiritual songs?” Then facts, such as have been adduced, cannot fail to suggest the dishonour thereby done to Him whose majesty he declines to celebrate—the wrong offered to others for whose petitions he manifests a total unconcern—the wound inflicted on his own soul by withholding entreaties, which might have drawn down from Heaven the answer of

imparted holiness—above all, the slight offered to the Saviour by a refusal to obey His Apostles; who, in His name, commanded the use of “Psalms and Hymns.” It may be pleasing to the natural taste to admire the performances of an able Choir. It may be flattering to self-pride to find opportunity to criticise and expose the errors of a defective one. It may be congenial to indolence to withhold the mind’s attention and the tongue’s confession. But neither disposition may without sin seal the lips in the House of God. There we meet, in order to jointly open our hearts to God. And, if we be sincere in our religion, out of their abundance *the mouth will speak*. He, therefore, who, being able to sing, does not zealously exert his powers—or, who, not being endued with musical ability, does not follow in thought (and with a subdued voice strive—as best he may—to aid) the *strains* of the Congregational Psalm, thus “*singing* in the heart to the Lord,”—is

actually a witness to himself that his supposed faith is unsubstantial, and that he is an alien in the midst of the Church whose membership he claims.

2. Is it not to be feared that men forget in very many instances that *the Psalm is an appointed means of direct communion with our Lord?* that, captivated with the melody, they drop all sense of the appeal to God and concern about the language uttered? Observation testifies that such a fear is not without just grounds. To too great an extent pre-eminence is given to the music over the words. So long as the tune is impressive and the execution on the part of the Choir is faultless, great numbers of people are perfectly, it would seem, content; although the verses sung may have been disjointed to a degree, and, consequently, ill-calculated to promote their spiritual welfare. It should be, on the contrary, carefully borne in mind that a Christian's duty is to "Sing with grace in"

heart,” and that this cannot be done unless he sings “*with the understanding*” also.

Respectfully and affectionately—yet most earnestly—the compiler of this little volume submits the foregoing suggestions to the serious reflection of those, with whom he is ministerially connected, and for whose use the selection contained in it is primarily designed ; as well as of any others, who may be pleased to bestow their attention upon it. He entreats them (and is confident that they will, in a spirit of Christian kindness, entertain the request) to invariably join, *one and all*, in singing the praises of God in the congregation ; as behoves those, who have entered the House of Prayer with so emphatic an acknowledgment of the obligation as is expressed in the words “ O come, let us *sing* unto the Lord, let us *heartily rejoice* in the strength of our salvation.”

Finally, he desires to explain the object *contemplated* in a selection of this kind.

It is a two-fold one; comprising the prevention of the interruption often caused both to the singing and to the train of thought, by the search in different and sometimes very distant stanzas for the lines next to be sung or at the moment being sung, and also of the pain which arises in every serious mind on unconnected and inapplicable portions of a Psalm being used. While, in order to give the thoughts a certain direction and likewise to facilitate a choice of Psalms applicable to different occasions, the subject is placed at the head of each.

A slight verbal alteration has, in some *very few* instances, been found necessary, in order to avoid tautology, or to connect the verses, or for other causes of a like nature; but, invariably and most scrupulously, the Compiler has retained in the substituted expressions the import of the original passage. *Hymns* for particular occasions have been added; being those which are a

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ERRATUM.

At page 38, the 7th and 9th verses of Psalm lxxvii. should read thus :—

Has God for ever cast us off ?

Withdrawn His favour quite ?

Are both His mercy and His truth

Retir'd to endless night ?

Can His long-practis'd love forget

Its wonted aids to bring ?

Has He in wrath shut up and seal'd

His mercy's healing spring ?

A SELECTION
FROM THE
OLD AND NEW VERSIONS OF PSALMS.

PSALM I.

Verses 1, 2, 6.

The Blessedness of a Holy Life.

HOW blest is he who ne'er consents
By ill advice to walk ;
Nor stands in sinners' ways, nor sits
Where men profanely talk.
But makes the perfect law of God
His business and delight ;
Devoutly reads therein by day,
And meditates by night.
For God approves the just man's ways,
To happiness they tend :
While sinners, and the paths they tread,
Shall both in ruin end.

PSALM II.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 13.

The Supreme Dominion of Messiah.

With restless and ungovern'd rage

Why do the Heathen storm ?

Why in such rash attempts engage,

As they can ne'er perform ?

The great in counsel and in might

Their various forces bring ;

Against the Lord they all unite,

And His anointed King.

“ Must we submit to their commands ? ”

Presumptuously they say :

“ No, let us break their slavish bands,

And cast their chains away.”

But God, who sits enthron'd on high,

And sees how they combine,

Does their conspiring strength defy,

And mocks their vain design.

Learn then, ye Princes ; and give ear,

Ye Judges of the earth ;

Worship the Lord with holy fear ;

Rejoice with awful mirth.

If but in part His anger rise,

Who can endure the flame ?

Then blest are they whose hope relies

On His most holy Name.

PSALM III.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8.

Security in God's protection.

How num'rous, Lord, of late are grown

The troublers of my peace !

And, as their numbers hourly rise,

So does their rage increase.

Insulting they my soul upbraid,

And Him whom I adore ;

"The God in whom he trusts," say they,

"Shall rescue him no more."

But thou, O Lord, art my defence ;

On thee my hopes rely ;

Thou art my glory, and shalt yet

Lift up my head on high.

Since whensoever in like distress

To God I made my pray'r,

He heard me from His holy hill,

Why should I now despair ?

Guarded by Him, I laid me down

My sweet repose to take ;

For I through Him securely sleep,

Through Him securely wake.

Salvation to the Lord belongs,

He only can defend ;

His blessing He extends to all,

That on His pow'r depend.

PSALM IV.

Verses 1, 6, 7, 8.

Confidence in Divine protection.

O LORD, that art my righteous Judge,
 To my complaint give ear :
 Thou still redeem'st me from distress ;
 Have mercy, Lord, and hear.

While worldly minds impatient grow
 More prosp'rous times to see,
 Still let the glories of Thy face
 Shine brightly, Lord, on me.

So shall my heart o'erflow with joy,
 More lasting and more true,
 Than theirs, who stores of corn and wine
 Successively renew.

Then down in peace I'll lay my head,
 And take my needful rest ;
 No other guard, O Lord, I crave,
 Of Thy defence possess.

PSALM V.

Verses 1, 2, 7, 8.

The believer's constant recourse to prayer.

LORD, hear the voice of my complaint,
 Accept my secret pray'r ;
 To Thee alone, my King, my God,
Will I for help repair.

Thou in the morn my voice shalt hear ;
 And with the dawning day
 To Thee devoutly I'll look up,
 To Thee devoutly pray.
 But when Thy boundless grace shall me
 To Thy lov'd courts restore,
 On Thee I'll fix my longing eyes,
 And humbly there adore.
 Conduct me by Thy righteous laws,
 For watchful is my foe ;
 Therefore, O Lord, make plain the way
 Wherein I ought to go.

PSALM VI.

Verses 1, 4, 5, 9.

The Penitent's supplication and relief.

THY dreadful anger, Lord, restrain,
 And spare a wretch forlorn ;
 Correct me not in Thy fierce wrath,
 Too heavy to be borne.
 Thy wonted goodness, Lord, repeat,
 And ease my troubled soul ;
 Lord, for Thy wondrous mercy's sake
 Vouchsafe to make me whole.
 For after death no more can I
 Thy glorious acts proclaim ;
 No pris'ner of the silent grave
 Can magnify Thy Name.

He hears and grants my humble pray'r ;
 And they that wish my fall,
 Shall blush and rage to see that God
 Protects me from them all.

PSALM VIII.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

The mystery of God's goodness to man.

O THOU, to whom all creatures bow
 Within this earthly frame,
 Through all the world how great art Thou !
 How glorious is Thy Name !

In heav'n Thy wondrous acts are sung,
 Nor fully reckon'd there ;
 And yet Thou mak'st the infant tongue
 Thy boundless praise declare.

When heav'n, Thy beauteous work on high,
 Employs my wond'ring sight ;
 The moon that nightly rules the sky,
 With stars of feebler light ;

What's man, say I, that, Lord, Thou lov'st
 To keep him in Thy mind ?
 Or what his offspring, that Thou prov'st
 To them so wondrous kind ?

PSALM IX.

Verses 1, 2, 10, 11.

The claims of Divine Providence on our grateful joy.

To celebrate Thy praise, O Lord,
 I will my heart prepare ;
 To all the list'ning world Thy works,
 Thy wond'rous works, declare.
 The thought of them shall to my soul
 Exalted pleasure bring ;
 Whilst to Thy Name, O Thou most High,
 Triumphant praise I sing.
 All those who have His goodness prov'd
 Will in His truth confide ;
 Whose mercy ne'er forsook the man
 That on His help relied.
 Sing praises, therefore, to the Lord,
 From Sion, His abode ;
 Proclaim His deeds, till all the world
 Confess no other God.

PSALM X.

Verses 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

God the protector of his people.

No longer let the wicked vaunt,
 And proudly boasting say,
 Tush, God regards not what we do ;
 He never will repay.

But sure Thou seest, and all their deeds
 Impartially dost try ;
 The orphan, therefore, and the poor
 On Thee for aid rely.

Defenceless let the wicked fall,
 Of all their strength bereft ;
 Confound, O God, their dark designs,
 Till no remains are left.

Assert Thy just dominion, Lord,
 Which shall for ever stand ;
 Thou, who the heathen didst expel
 From this Thy chosen land.

Thou dost the humble suppliants hear
 That to Thy throne repair ;
 Thou first prepar'st their hearts to pray,
 And then accept'st their pray'r.

PSALM XI.

Verses 4, 5, 7.

Confidence in God's justice.

THE Lord hath both a temple here,
 And righteous throne above ;
 Whence He surveys the sons of men,
 And how their counsels move.
 If God the righteous, whom He loves,
 For trial does correct ;
 What must the sons of violence,
 Whom He abhors, expect ?

The righteous Lord will righteous deeds
 With signal favour grace ;
 And to the upright man disclose
 The brightness of His face.

PSALM XIII.

Verses 1, 3, 5, 6.

The afflicted believer's entreaty.

How long wilt Thou forget me, Lord ?
 Must I for ever mourn ?
 How long wilt Thou withdraw from me,
 Oh ! never to return ?

O hear, and to my longing eyes
 Restore Thy wonted light ;
 And suddenly, or I shall sleep
 In everlasting night.

Since I have always plac'd my trust
 Beneath Thy mercy's wing,
 Thy saving health will come, and then
 My heart with joy shall spring :

Then shall my song, with praise inspir'd,
 To Thee, my God, ascend ;
 Who to Thy servant in distress
 Such bounty didst extend.

PSALM XV.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 7.

The influence of the sanctuary on the life.

LORD, who 's the happy man that may

To Thy blest courts repair?

Not, stranger-like, to visit them,

But to inhabit there?

'Tis he, whose every thought and deed

By rules of virtue moves;

Whose gen'rous tongue disdains to speak

The thing his heart disproves.

Who vice in all its pomp and pow'r

Can treat with just neglect;

And piety, though cloth'd in rags,

Religiously respect.

The man, who by this steady course

Has happiness insur'd,

When earth's foundation shakes, shall sta

By Providence secur'd.

PSALM XVI.

Verses 5, 7, 8, 9, 11.

The believer's hope beyond the grave.

MY lot is fall'n in that blest land

Where God is truly known;

He fills my cup with lib'ral hand;

'Tis *He* supports my throne.

Therefore my soul shall bless the Lord,
 Whose precepts give me light,
 And private counsel still afford
 In sorrow's dismal night.

I strive each action to approve
 To His all-seeing eye ;
 No danger shall my hopes remove,
 Because He still is nigh.

My trusting heart all grief defies,
 My glory does rejoice ;
 My flesh shall rest in hope to rise,
 Wak'd by His powerful voice.

Thou shalt the paths of life display,
 That to Thy presence lead ;
 Where pleasures dwell without allay,
 And joys that never fade.

PSALM XVII.

Verses 5, 6, 7, 8.

In entreaty for help against the soul's enemies.

THAT I may still, in spite of wrongs,
 My innocence secure ;
 O guide me in Thy righteous ways,
 And make my footsteps sure.

Since heretofore I ne'er in vain
 To Thee my pray'r address ;
 O now, my God, incline Thine ear
 To this my just request.

The wonders of Thy truth and love
 In my defence engage ;
 Thou, whose right hand preserves the saint
 From their oppressors' rage.
 O keep me in Thy tend'rest care ;
 Thy shelt'ring wings stretch out,
 To guard me safely from the foes
 That compass me about.

PSALM XVIII.

Verses 1, 2, 6, 3.

Christ the safeguard of His Church.

No change of time shall ever shock
 My firm affection, Lord, to Thee ;
 For Thou hast always been my rock,
 A fortress and defence to me.
 Thou my deliv'rer art, my God,
 My trust is in Thy mighty pow'r ;
 Thou art my Shield from foes abroad,
 At home my Safeguard and my Tow'r.
 To heav'n I made my mournful pray'r,
 To God address'd my humble moan ;
 Who graciously inclin'd His ear,
 And heard me from His lofty throne.
 To Thee I will address my pray'r,
 To whom all praise we justly owe ;
 So shall I, by Thy watchful care,
 Be guarded from my treach'rous foe.

PSALM XVIII.

Verses 25, 26, 30, 31, 46, 49.

The Church's expression of devotedness to Christ.

THOU suit'st, O Lord, Thy righteous ways
 To various paths of human kind;
 They, who for mercy merit praise,
 With Thee shall wondrous mercy find.
 Thou to the just shalt justice show,
 The pure Thy purity shall see;
 Such as perversely choose to go,
 Shall meet with due returns from Thee.

For God's designs shall still succeed;
 His word will bear the utmost test:
 He 's a strong shield to all that need,
 And on His sure protection rest.
 Who then deserves to be ador'd,
 But God, on whom my hopes depend?
 Or who, except the mighty Lord,
 Can with resistless pow'r defend?

Let the eternal Lord be prais'd,
 The rock on whose defence I rest;
 O'er highest heav'ns His Name be rais'd,
 Who me with His salvation blest.
 Therefore to celebrate His fame
 My grateful voice to heav'n I'll raise;
 And nations, strangers to His Name,
 Shall thus be taught to sing His praise.

PSALM XIX.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

The recognition of God in His works.

The heav'ns declare Thy glory, Lord,
 Which that alone can fill ;
 The firmament and stars express
 Their great Creator's skill.

The dawn of each returning day
 Fresh beams of knowledge brings ;
 And from the dark returns of night
 Divine instruction springs.

Their pow'rful language to no realm
 Or region is confin'd ;
 'Tis nature's voice, and understood
 Alike by all mankind.

Their doctrine does its sacred sense
 Through earth's extent display ;
 Whose bright contents the circling sun
 Does round the world convey.

PSALM XIX.

Verses 7, 8, 13, 14.

A Prayer for help in the effort to obey God.

God's perfect law convert the soul,
 Reclaims from false desires ;
 With sacred wisdom His sure word
 The ignorant inspires.

The statutes of the Lord are just,
 And bring sincere delight ;
 His pure commands, in search of truth,
 Assist the feeblest sight.

Let no presumptuous sin, O Lord,
 Dominion have o'er me ;
 That, by Thy grace preserv'd, I may
 The great transgression flee.

So shall my pray'r and praises be
 With Thy acceptance blest ;
 And I, secure on Thy defence,
 My strength and Saviour, rest.

PSALM XX.

Verses 5, 6, 9.

Prayer the true source of national greatness.

To Thy salvation, Lord, for aid
 We cheerfully repair,
 With banners in Thy name display'd,
 "The Lord accept thy pray'r."

Our hopes are fix'd, that now the Lord
 Our sov'reign will defend ;
 From heav'n resistless aid afford,
 And to his pray'r attend.

Still save us, Lord, and still proceed
 Our rightful cause to bless ;
 Hear, King of Heav'n, in times of need,
 The prayers that we address.

PSALM XXIII.

Verses 1, 3, 4, 6.

The believer's sufficiency is of God.

THE Lord Himself, the mighty Lord,
 Vouchsafes to be my guide ;
 The shepherd, by whose constant care
 My wants are all supplied.

He does my wand'ring soul reclaim,
 And, to His endless praise,
 Instruct with humble zeal to walk
 In His most righteous ways.

I pass the gloomy vale of death,
 From fear and danger free ;
 For there His aiding rod and staff
 Defend and comfort me.

Since God does thus His wondrous love
 Through all my life extend,
 That life to Him I will devote,
 And in His temple spend,

PSALM XXIV.

Verses 7, 8, 9, 10.

The brightness of Messiahs resumed glories.

ERECT your heads, eternal gates,
 Unfold, to entertain
 The King of glory ; see, He comes
 With His celestial train.

Who is this King of glory? who?
 The Lord for strength renown'd;
 In battle mighty, o'er his foes
 Eternal victor crown'd.

Erect your heads, ye gates, unfold
 In state to entertain
 The King of glory; see, he comes
 With all his shining train.

Who is this King of glory? who?
 The Lord of hosts renown'd;
 Of glory he alone is King,
 Who is with glory crown'd.

PSALM XXV.

Verses 12, 14, 8, 9, 10.

Faith invariably blessed from above.

WHOE'ER with humble fear
 To God his duty pays,
 Shall find the Lord a faithful Guide
 In all his righteous ways.
 For God to all his saints
 His secret will imparts,
 And does His gracious cov'nant write
 In their obedient hearts.
 His mercy and His truth
 The righteous Lord displays
 In bringing wand'ring sinners home,
 And teaching them his ways.

He those in justice guides
 Who His direction seek ;
 And in His sacred paths shall lead
 The humble and the meek.
 Through all the ways of God
 Both truth and mercy shine
 To such as with religious hearts
 To His blest will incline !

PSALM XXV.

Verses 11, 4 & 5, 6, 18.

A prayer of conscious undeservedness.

SINCE mercy is the grace
 That most exalts Thy fame,
 Forgive my heinous sin, O Lord,
 And so advance Thy name.
 To me Thy truth impart,
 And lead me in Thy way,
 For Thou art He that brings me help,
 On Thee I wait all day.
 Thy mercies and Thy love,
 O Lord, recal to mind ;
 And graciously continue still,
 As Thou wert ever, kind.
 Do Thou with tender eyes
 My sad affliction see,
 Acquit me, Lord, and from my guilt
Entirely set me free.

PSALM XXX.

Verses 1, 4, 5, 12.

A Thanksgiving for mercies received.

I'LL celebrate Thy praises, Lord,
 Who didst Thy pow'r employ
 To raise my drooping head, and check
 My foes' insulting joy.

Thus to His courts, ye saints of His,
 With songs of praise repair ;
 With me commemorate His truth,
 And providential care.

His wrath has but a moment's reign,
 His favour no decay ;
 Your night of grief is recompens'd
 With joy's returning day.

Exalted thus, I'll gladly sing
 Thy praise in grateful verse ;
 And, as Thy favours endless are,
 Thy endless praise rehearse.

PSALM XXXI.

Verses 5, 15, 2, 14.

An expression of dependence on Divine Providence.

To Thee, the God of truth,
 My life, and all that's mine,
 (For Thou preserv'dst me from my youth,)
 I willingly resign.

Whate'er events betide,
 Thy wisdom times them all ;
 Then, Lord, Thy servant safely hide
 From those that seek his fall.
 Bow down Thy gracious ear,
 And speedy succour send ;
 Do Thou my steadfast rock appear,
 To shelter and defend.
 For e'er my steadfast trust
 I on Thy help repose ;
 That Thou, my God, art good and just,
 My soul with comfort knows.

PSALM XXXII.

Verses 1, 10, 11.

The blessedness of a mind at peace with God.

HE 's blest whose sins have pardon gain'd,
 No more in judgment to appear ;
 Whose guilt remission has obtain'd,
 And whose repentance is sincere.
 Sorrows on sorrows multiplied
 The harden'd sinner shall confound,
 But them who in His truth confide,
 Blessings of mercy shall surround.
 His saints that have perform'd His laws
 Their life in triumph shall employ ;
Let them, as they alone have cause,
In grateful raptures shout for joy

PSALM XXXIII.

Verses 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12.

*The Divine power and goodness unfailing sources of
grateful contemplation to the believer.*

LET all the just to God with joy
 Their cheerful voices raise,
 For well the righteous it becomes
 To sing glad songs of praise.
 For faithful is the word of God,
 His works with truth abound ;
 He justice loves, and all the earth
 Is with His goodness crown'd.

By His Almighty word at first
 The heavenly arch was rear'd,
 And all the beauteous hosts of light
 At His command appear'd.
 Let earth and all that dwell therein
 Before Him trembling stand ;
 For when He spake the word 'twas made,
 'Twas fix'd at His command.

Whate'er the mighty Lord decrees
 Shall stand for ever sure ;
 The settled purpose of His heart
 To ages shall endure.
 How happy then are they, to whom
 The Lord for God is known !
 Whom He from all the world besides
 Has chosen for His own !

PSALM XXXIV.

Verses 1, 3, 8, 9.

The certainty of piety's reward.

THROUGH all the changing scenes of life,
 In trouble and in joy,
 The praises of my God shall still
 My heart and tongue employ.

O magnify the Lord with me,
 With me exalt His name ;
 When in distress to Him I call'd,
 He to my rescue came.

O make but trial of His love,
 Experience will decide,
 How bless'd they are, and only they,
 Who in His truth confide.

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then
 Have nothing else to fear ;
 Make you His service your delight,
 Your wants shall be His care.

PSALM XXXVI.

Verses 7, 8, 9.

Grace received induces a longing for its increase

SINCE of Thy goodness all partake,
 With what assurance should the just
 Thy shelt'ring wings their refuge make,
 And saints to Thy protection trust.

Such guests shall to Thy courts be led
 To banquet on Thy love's repast ;
 And drink, as from a fountain's head,
 Of joys that shall for ever last.

With Thee the springs of life remain ;
 Thy presence is eternal day :
 O let Thy saints Thy favour gain ;
 To upright hearts Thy truth display.

PSALM XXXVI.

Verses 5, 6, 7, 8.

O LORD, thy mercy, my sure hope,
 Above the heav'nly orb ascends ;
 Thy sacred truth's unmeasur'd scope
 Beyond the spreading sky extends.

Thy justice, like the hills, remains ;
 Unfathom'd depths thy judgments are ;
 Thy providence the world sustains ;
 The whole creation is Thy care.

Since of Thy goodness all partake,
 With what assurance should the just
 Thy shelt'ring wings their refuge make,
 And saints to Thy protection trust.

Such guests shall to Thy courts be led
 To banquet on Thy love's repast ;
 And drink, as from a fountain's head,
 Of joys that shall for ever last.

PSALM XXXVII.

Verses 23, 29, 39.

The Lord watches over and provides for His peop

THE good man's way is God's delight,

He orders all the steps aright

Of him that moves by His command;

Though he sometimes may be distress'd,

Yet shall he ne'er be quite oppress'd,

For God upholds him with His hand.

The upright shall possess the land,

His portion shall for ages stand ;

His mouth with wisdom is supplied ;

His tongue by rules of judgment moves,

His heart the law of God approves,

Therefore his footsteps never slide.

God to the just will aid afford,

Their only safeguard is the Lord ;

Their strength in time of need is He :

Because on Him they still depend,

The Lord will timely succour send,

And from the wicked set them free.

PSALM XXXIX.

Verses 4, 5, 7, 12.

A prayer suggested by this life's uncertainty.

LORD, let me know my term of days,

How soon my life will end ;

The num'rous train of ills disclose,

Which this frail state attend.

My life, Thou know'st, is but a span,
 A cipher sums my years ;
 And ev'ry man, in best estate,
 But vanity appears.

Why then should I on worthless toys
 With anxious care attend ?
 On Thee alone my steadfast hope
 Shall ever, Lord, depend.

Lord, hear my cry ! accept my tears !
 And listen to my pray'r ;
 Who sojourn like a stranger here,
 As all my fathers were !

PSALM XL.

Verses 1, 3, 5, 16.

Past deliverance an earnest of future blessing.

I WAITED meekly for the Lord,
 Till He vouchsaf'd a kind reply ;
 Who did His gracious ear afford,
 And heard from heav'n my humble cry.

The wonders He for me has wrought
 Shall fill my mouth with songs of praise ;
 And others, to His worship brought,
 To hopes of like deliv'rance raise.

Who can the wondrous works recount,
 Which Thou, O God, for us hast wrought !
 The treasures of Thy love surmount
 The pow'r of numbers, speech and thought

All those, who humbly seek Thy face,
 To joyful triumphs shall be rais'd ;
 And all, who prize Thy saving grace,
 With me resound, 'The Lord be prais'd !'

PSALM XLI.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

*The encouragement given to others by the believer's
 peace of mind.*

HAPPY the man, whose tender care
 Relieves the poor distress ;
 When troubles compass him around,
 The Lord shall give him rest.

The Lord his life, with blessings crown'd,
 In safety shall prolong ;
 And disappoint the will of those,
 That seek to do him wrong.

If he, in languishing estate,
 Oppress'd with sickness lie ;
 The Lord will easy make his bed,
 And inward strength supply.

Secure of this, to Thee, my God,
 I thus my pray'r address'd :
 ' Lord, for Thy mercy, heal my soul,
 Though I have much transgress'd !'

PSALM XLII.

Verses 1, 2, 11.

*The believer's continual longing for communion
with God.*

As pants the hart for cooling streams,

When heated in the chase ;

So longs my soul, O God, for Thee

And Thy refreshing grace.

For Thee, my God, the living God,

My thirsty soul doth pine ;

O when shall I behold Thy face,

Thou Majesty divine !

Why restless, why cast down, my soul ?

Hope still ; and thou shalt sing

The praise of Him—who is thy God,

Thy health's eternal spring !

PSALM XLVII.

Verses 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8.

The joy of the Church at Christ's Ascension.

O, all ye people, clap your hands,

And with triumphant voices sing ;

No force the mighty pow'r withstands

Of God, the universal King !

God is gone up, our Lord and King,

With shouts of joy and trumpet's sound ;

To Him repeated praises sing,

And let adoring love abound !

Your utmost skill in praise be shown,
 For Him, who all the world commands ;
 Who sits upon His righteous throne,
 And spreads His sway o'er Heathen lands.

PSALM XLIX.

Verses 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16.

The folly of setting the affections on earthly objects.

THOSE men that all their hope and trust
 In heaps of treasure place,
 And boast and triumph, when they see
 Their ill-got wealth increase,
 Are yet unable from the grave
 Their dearest friend to free;
 Nor can by force or bribes reverse
 Th' Almighty Lord's decree.

Their vain endeavours they must quit ;
 The price is held too high ;
 No sums can purchase such a grant,
 That man should never die !
 Not wisdom can the wise exempt,
 Nor fools their folly save ;
 But both must perish, and in death
 Their wealth to others leave !

But God will yet redeem my soul ;
 And from the greedy grave
 His greater pow'r shall set me free,
 And 'to Himself receive !

Then fear not thou, when worldly men
 In envied wealth abound ;
 Nor though their prosp'rous house increase,
 With state and honour crown'd !

PSALM L.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

We know that Christ shall come to be our Judge.

THE Lord hath spoke ; the mighty God
 Hath sent His summons all abroad ;
 From dawning light, till day declines,
 The list'ning earth His voice hath heard ;
 And He from Sion hath appear'd,
 Where beauty in perfection shines.

Our God shall come, and keep no more
 Misconstru'd silence, as before ;
 But wasting flames before Him send :
 Around shall tempests fiercely rage,
 While He does heav'n and earth engage
 His just tribunal to attend.

' Assemble all My saints to Me,
 (Thus runs the great Divine decree,)
 That in My lasting cov'nant live,
 And off'rings bring with constant care :
 The Heav'ns His justice shall declare ;
 For God Himself shall sentence give !

PSALM LI.

Verses 1, 2, 9.

A Penitential Supplication.

HAVE mercy, Lord, on me,
As Thou wert ever kind ;
Let me, opprest with loads of guilt,
Thy wonted mercy find.

Wash off my foul offence,
And cleanse me from my sin ;
For I confess my crime, and see
How great my guilt has been.

Blot out my crying sins,
Nor me in anger view ;
Create in me a heart that's clean,
An upright mind renew.

PSALM LV, Verse 1, and PSALM LVI, Verses 13,

The Believer's Prayer for continued Protection

GIVE ear, thou Judge of all the earth,
And listen when I pray ;
Nor from Thy humble suppliant turn
Thy glorious face away.

Thou hast retriev'd my soul from death ;
And Thou can'st still secure
The life Thou hast so oft preserv'd,
And make my footsteps sure ;

O ! thus protected by Thy pow'r,
 May I this light enjoy,
 And in the service of my God
 My lengthen'd days employ !

PSALM LVII.

Verses 7, 9, 10, 11.

A pious expression of zeal for God's honour.

O God, my heart is fix'd, 'ts bent,
 Its thankful tribute to present ;
 And with my heart my voice I'll raise
 To Thee, my God, in songs of praise.
 Thy praises, Lord, I will resound
 To all the list'ning nations round ;
 Thy mercy highest heav'n transcends !
 Thy truth beyond the clouds extends !
 Be Thou, O God, exalted high ;
 And, as Thy glory fills the sky,
 So let it be on earth display'd,
 Till Thou art here, as there, obey'd !

PSALM LXII.

Verses 1, 5, 8.

*An exhortation to reliance on the good Providence
 of God.*

My soul for help on God relies,
 From Him alone my safety flows ;
 My Rock,—my Health,—that strength supplies
 To bear the shock of all my foes !

Ever, my soul, on God rely ;
 On Him alone thy trust repose ;
 My Rock and Health will strength supply
 To bear the shock of all my foes !

In Him, ye people, always trust ;
 Before His Throne pour out your hearts ;
 For God, the Merciful and Just,
 His timely aid to us imparts.

PSALM LXIII.

Verses 1, 3, 6, 7.

God's presence ever realized by a pious spirit.

O GOD ! my gracious God ! to Thee,
 My morning prayers shall offer'd be ;
 To Thee my soul's meek trust I'll raise.
 Because to me Thy wondrous love
 Than life itself doth dearer prove,
 My lips shall always speak Thy praise.

When down I lie sweet sleep to find,
 Thou, Lord, art present to my mind ;
 And when I wake in dead of night.
 Because Thou still dost succour bring,
 Beneath the shadow of Thy wing
 I rest with safety and delight.

PSALM LXVI.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

*An anticipation of the gathering of the Nations
unto Christ.*

LET all the lands with shouts of joy
To God their voices raise ;
Sing psalms in honour of His Name,
And spread His glorious praise.
And let them say, how dreadful, Lord,
In all Thy works art Thou !
To Thy great pow'r Thy stubborn foes
Shall all be fore'd to bow.
Through all the earth the nations round
Shall Thee their God confess ;
And with glad hymns the awful dread
Of Thy great Name express.

PSALM LXVI.

Verses 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.

An acknowledgment of past mercies.

O come, all ye that fear the Lord,
Attend with heedful care ;
Whilst I what God for me has done
With grateful joy declare.
As I before His aid implor'd,
So now I praise His name ;
Who, if my heart had harbour'd sin,
Would all my pray'rs disclaim.

But God to me, whene'er I cried,
 His gracious ear did bend ;
 And to the voice of my request
 With constant love attend.
 Then bless'd for ever be my God,
 Who never, when I pray,
 Withholds His mercy from my soul,
 Nor turns His face away !

PSALM LXVII.

Verses 1, 2, 3.

A Prayer for the Progress of the Gospel.

To bless Thy chosen race,
 In mercy, Lord, incline ;
 And cause the brightness of Thy face
 On all Thy saints to shine.
 That so Thy wondrous ways
 May through the world be known ;
 Whilst distant lands their tribute pay,
 And Thy salvation own.
 Let diff'ring nations join
 To celebrate Thy fame ;
 Let all the world, O Lord, combine
 To praise Thy glorious name !

PSALM LXVIII.

Verses 4, 19, 24, 26.

The song of Christ's redeemed to their Saviour's gl
 To Him your voice in anthems raise,
 (Jehovah's awful name He bears !)

In Him rejoice ; extol His praise,
 Who rides upon high rolling spheres—
 For benefits each day bestow'd,
 Be daily His great Name ador'd ;
 Who is our Saviour and our God,
 Of life and death the sov'reign Lord!

When, marching to Thy blest abode,
 The wond'ring multitude survey'd
 The pompous state of Thee, our God,
 In robes of majesty array'd,
 This was the burden of their song :
 ' In full assemblies bless the Lord,
 All, who to Israel's tribes belong !
 The God of Israel's praise record !'

PSALM LXXI.

Verses 1, 17, 15, 16, 9, 22.

*Past mercies justify the believer in the anticipation
 of future Providential protection.*

In Thee I put my steadfast trust,
 Defend me, Lord, from shame ;
 Incline Thine ear, and save my soul,
 For righteous is Thy Name !
 Thou, Lord, hast taught me, from my youth,
 To praise Thy glorious Name ;
 And, ever since, Thy wond'rous works
 Have been my constant theme.

Thy righteous acts and saving health
 My mouth shall still declare ;
 Unable yet to count them all,
 Though summ'd with utmost care.
 While God vouchsafes me His support,
 I'll in His strength go on ;
 All other righteousness disclaim,
 And mention His alone.
 Reject not, then, Thy servant, Lord,
 When I with age decay ;
 Forsake me not, when, worn with years,
 My vigour fades away !
 Then I with psaltery and harp
 Thy truth, O Lord, will praise ;
 To Thee, the God of Jacob's race,
 My voice in anthems raise.

PSALM LXXIII.

Verses 12, 16, 18, 19, 25.

The prosperous circumstances of ungodly persons must not awaken our jealousy or misgivings.

BEHOLD the wicked ! these are they
 Who openly their sins profess ;
 And yet their wealth's increas'd each day,
 And all their actions meet success !
 To fathom this my thoughts I bent,
 But found the case too hard for me ;
 Till to the house of God I went,
 Then I their end did plainly see.

How high soe'er advanc'd, they all
 On slipp'ry places loosely stand;
 Thence into ruin headlong fall,
 Cast down by thy avenging hand.

How dreadful and how quick their fate!
 Despis'd by Thee when they're destroy'd;
 As waking men with scorn do treat
 The fancies that their dreams employ'd!

Whom then in Heav'n, but Thee alone,
 Have I, whose favour I require?
 Throughout the spacious earth there's none
 That I, besides Thee, can desire.

PSALM LXXVI.

Verses 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12.

The fearfulness of offending the Almighty.

WHEN Jacob's God began to frown,
 Both horse and charioteers, o'erthrown,
 Together slept in endless night:
 When Thou, whom earth and Heav'n revere,
 Dost once with wrathful look appear,
 What mortal pow'r can stand Thy sight!
 Pronounc'd from Heav'n, earth heard its doom;
 Grew hush'd with fear, when Thou did'st come
 The meek with justice to restore!
 The wrath of man shall yield Thee praise;
 Its last attempts but serve to raise
 The triumphs of Almighty pow'r.

Vow to the Lord, ye nations, bring
 Vow'd presents to th' eternal King;
 Thus to His Name due rev'rences pay,
 Who proudest potentates can quell—
 To earthly kings more terrible,
 Than to their trembling subjects they !

PSALM LXXVII.

Verses 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16.

Perfect Love casteth out fear.

Has God for ever cast us off?
 Withdrawn His favour quite?
 Can His long-practis'd love forget
 Its wonted aids to bring?
 Are both His mercy and His truth
 Retir'd to endless night?
 Has He in wrath shut up and seal'd
 His mercy's healing spring?

I said, My weakness hints these fears:
 But I'll my fears disband;
 I'll yet remember the Most High,
 And years of His right hand.
 I'll call to mind His works of old,
 The wonders of His might;
 On them my heart shall meditate,
 My tongue shall them recite!

Safe lodg'd from human search on high,
 O God, Thy counsels are !
 Who is so great a God as ours ?
 Who can with Him compare ?
 Long since a God of wonders Thee
 Thy rescu'd people found ;
 Long since hast Thou Thy chosen seed
 With strong deliv'rance crown'd.

PSALM LXXVIII.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.

The Church a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ.

HEAR, O my people ; to my law
 Devout attention lend ;
 Let the instruction of my mouth
 Deep in your hearts descend.
 My tongue, by inspiration taught,
 Shall parables unfold,
 Dark oracles, but understood,
 And own'd for truths of old ;
 Which we from sacred registers
 Of ancient times have known,
 And our forefathers' pious care
 To us has handed down.
 We will not hide them from our sons :
 Our offspring shall be taught
 The praises of the Lord, Whose strength
 Has works of wonder wrought :

That generations yet to come
 Should to their unborn heirs
 Religiously transmit the same,
 And they again to theirs ;
 To teach them that in God alone
 Their hope securely stands ;
 That they should ne'er forget His works,
 But keep His just commands.

PSALM LXXIX.

Verses 5, 9, 13.

*The tried believer longs to have even his distress made
 conducive to his Lord's glory.*

How long wilt Thou be angry, Lord !
 Must we for ever mourn ?
 Shall Thy devouring jealous rage,
 Like fire, for ever burn ?

Thou God of our salvation, help,
 And free our souls from blame ;
 So shall our pardon and defence
 Exalt Thy glorious Name.

So we, Thy people and Thy flock,
 Shall ever praise Thy Name ;
 And, with glad hearts, our grateful thanks
 From age to age proclaim.

PSALM LXXX.

Verses 1, 7, 18.

The Lord's presence a guarantee of peace to His Church.

O Israel's Shepherd, Joseph's Guide,
 Our pray'rs to Thee vouchsafe to hear ;
 Thou that dost on the Cherubs ride,
 Again in solemn state appear !
 Do thou convert us, Lord, do Thou
 The lustre of Thy face display ;
 And all the ills we suffer now,
 Like scatter'd clouds, shall pass away.
 So shall we still continue free
 From whatso'er deserves Thy blame ;
 And, if once more reviv'd by Thee,
 Will always praise Thy holy Name.

PSALM LXXXII.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 8.

The Lord's presence in the congregation constrains the worshipper to cast off unchristian thoughts.

God in the great assembly stands,
 Where His impartial eye
 In state surveys the earthly great,
 And does their judgments try !
 How dare you, then, unjustly judge ?
 Or be to sinners kind ?
 Defend the orphans and the poor,
 Let such your justice find ;

Protect the humble helpless man,
 Reduc'd to deep distress;
 And let not him become a prey
 To such as would oppress !
 Arise ; and Thy just judgments, Lord,
 Throughout the earth display ;
 And all the nations of the world
 Shall own Thy righteous sway !

PSALM LXXXIV.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12.

*The Sanctuary fertile in blessings to the spiritual
 worshipper, whose greatest delight is therein.*

O God of hosts, the mighty Lord,
 How lovely is the place,
 Where Thou, enthron'd in glory, shew'st
 The brightness of Thy face !
 My longing soul faints with desire
 To view Thy blest abode ;
 My panting heart and flesh cry out
 For Thee, the living God.

O Lord of hosts, my King and God,
 How highly blest are they,
 Who in Thy Temple always dwell,
 And there Thy praise display !
 Thrice happy they, whose choice has Thee
 Their sure protection made ;
 Who long to tread the sacred ways,
That to Thy dwelling lead !

Thus they proceed from strength to strength,
 And still approach more near,
 Till all on Sion's holy mount,
 Before their God appear.
 O Lord, the mighty God of hosts,
 My just request regard ;
 Thou God of Jacob, let my pray'r
 Be still with favour heard !

Much rather in God's House will I
 The meanest office take,
 Than in the wealthy tents of sin
 My pompous dwelling make :
 For God, who is our sun and shield,
 Will grace and glory give ;
 And no good thing will He withhold
 From them that justly live.

PSALM LXXXVI.

Verses 11, 6 & 7, 3, 4 & 5, 9, 10.

*The Christian's experience of Divine Grace, warrants
 a daily expectation of fresh conversions from
 Heathenism.*

TEACH me Thy way, O Lord, and I
 From truth shall ne'er depart ;
 In rev'rence to Thy sacred Name
 Devoutly fix my heart !
 To my repeated humble pray'r
 O Lord, attentive be !
 When troubled, I on Thee will call ;
 For Thou wilt answer me.

To me, who daily Thee invoke,
 Thy mercy, Lord extend ;
 Refresh Thy servant's soul, whose hopes
 On Thee alone depend.
 Thou, Lord, art good ; nor only good,
 But prompt to pardon too ;
 Of plenteous mercy to all those,
 Who for Thy mercy sue !

Therefore their great Creator Thee
 The nations shall adore ;
 Their long misguided pray'rs and praise
 To Thy blest Name restore ;
 All shall confess Thee great, and great
 The wonders Thou hast done :
 Confess Thee God ! the God supreme !
 Confess Thee God alone !

PSALM LXXXIX.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 7.

A Song of Praise.

THY mercies, Lord, shall be my song ;
 My song on them shall ever dwell ;
 To ages yet unborn my tongue
 Thy never-failing truth shall tell.
 I have affirm'd, and still maintain,
 Thy mercy shall for ever last ;
 Thy truth, that does the heav'ns sustain,
Like them, shall stand for ever fast.

For such stupendous truth and love
 Both heav'n and earth just praises owe,
 By choirs of Angels sung above,
 And by assembled Saints below.
 With rev'rence and religious dread
 His Saints should to His temple press ;
 His fear thro' all their hearts should spread,
 Who His Almighty Name confess!

PSALM XC.

Verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 14.

The impressive lesson of a fellow-creature's dissolution.

THOU turnest man, O Lord, to dust,
 Of which he first was made ;
 And, when Thou speak'st the word, 'Return,'
 'Tis instantly obey'd.
 For, in Thy sight, a thousand years
 Are like a day that's past ;
 Or like a watch in dead of night,
 Whose hours unminded waste.
 Thou sweep'st us off as with a flood !
 We vanish hence like dreams !
 At first we grow, like grass that feels
 The sun's reviving beams :
 But, howsoever fresh and fair
 Its morning beauty shows,
 'Tis all cut down ; and wither'd quite ;
 Before the ev'ning close \

So teach us, Lord, th' uncertain sum
 Of our short days to mind,
 That to true wisdom all our hearts
 May ever be inclin'd !
 To satisfy and cheer our souls
 Thy early mercy send ;
 That we may all our days to come,
 In joy and comfort spend !

PSALM XCII.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 13.

Joy and thanksgiving characterize a mind renewed.

How good and pleasant must it be
 To thank the Lord Most High ;
 And, with repeated hymns of praise,
 His Name to magnify !
 With every morning's early dawn
 His goodness to relate !
 And of His constant truth each night
 The glad effects repeat !
 For thro' Thy wondrous works, O Lord,
 Thou mak'st my heart rejoice ;
 The thoughts of them shall make me glad,
 And sing with cheerful voice ;
 These, planted in the house of God,
 Within His courts shall thrive ;
 Their vigour and their lustre both
 Shall in old age revive.

PSALM XCIII.

Verses 1, 2, 5.

The Majesty of Christ's Kingdom.

WITH glory clad, with strength array'd,
 The Lord, that o'er all nature reigns,
 The world's foundation strongly laid ;
 And the vast fabrick still sustains.

How surely stablish'd is Thy throne,
 Which shall no change or period see
 For Thou, O Lord, and Thon alone,
 Art God from all eternity.

Thy promise, Lord, is ever sure ;
 And they that in Thy house would dwell,
 That happy station to secure,
 Must e'er in holiness excel.

PSALM XCIV.

Verses 9, 11, 12, 13.

*A reflection on the omniscience and justice of the
 Almighty.*

Can He be deaf, who form'd the ear ?
 Or blind, who fram'd the eye ?
 Shall earth's great Judge not punish those,
 Who His known will defy ?

He fathoms all the thoughts of men ;
 To Him their hearts lie bare ;
 His eye surveys them all, and sees
 How vain their counsels are.

Bless'd is the man, whom Thou, O Lord,
 In kindness dost chastise,
 And by Thy sacred rules to walk
 Dost lovingly advise !
 This man shall rest and safety find
 In seasons of distress ;
 Whilst God prepares a pit for those,
 That stubbornly transgress !

PSALM XCV.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 3, 6.

*The Lord's Majesty demands the adoring praises of
 His Church.*

O Come, loud anthems let us sing,
 Loud thanks to our Almighty King ;
 For we our voices high should raise
 When our salvation's Rock we praise :
 Into his presence let us haste,
 To thank him for his favours past ;
 To him address, in joyful songs,
 The praise that to his Name belongs.
 The depths of earth are in His hand,
 Her secret wealth at His command ;
 The strength of hills, that reach the skies,
 Subjected to His empire lies :
 The rolling ocean's vast abyss
 By the same sov'reign right is His ;
 'Tis mov'd by His Almighty hand,
 That form'd and fix'd the solid land !

Since thus our Lord, enthron'd in state,
 Is with unrivall'd glory Great ;
 A God of truth ; unlike them all,
 Whom gods the heathen falsely call ;
 O let us to His Courts repair,
 And bow with adoration there,
 Down on our knees devoutly all
 Before the Lord our Maker fall !

PSALM XCVI.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8.

An Hymn of the universal Church.

SING to the Lord a new-made song !
 Let earth, in one assembled throng,
 Her common Saviour's praise resound ;
 Sing to the Lord ; and bless His Name ;
 From day to day His praise proclaim ;
 Who us hath with salvation crown'd.
 To heathen lands His fame rehearse,
 His wonders to the universe !
 He's great, and greatly to be prais'd,
 In majesty and glory rais'd
 Above pretended deities ;
 For pageantry and idols all
 Are they, whom Gods the heathen call ;
 He only rules, who made the skies.
 With majesty and honour crown'd,
 Beauty and Strength His throne surround ;

Be then the coming Judge ador'd,
 Who man to holiness restor'd.
 Ascribe due honour to His Name!
 Off'rings of faith before Him lay,
 Before His throne your homage pay,
 Which He, and He alone, can claim.
 To worship at His sacred Court
 Let all the trembling World resort !

PSALM XCI.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

*True faith overcomes the terrors of Pestilence and
 Death.*

HE, that has God his Guardian made,
 Shall, under th' Almighty's shade,
 Secure and undisturb'd abide.
 Thus to my soul of Him I'll say,
 ' He is my fortress and my stay,
 My God, in whom I will confide.'
 His tender love and watchful care
 Shall free thee from the tempter's snare,
 And from the noisome pestilence ;
 He over thee His wings shall spread,
 And cover thy unguarded head ;
 His truth shall be thy strong defence.
 No terrors, that surprise by night,
 Shall thy undaunted courage fright ;
 Nor deadly shafts that fly by day ;

Nor plague of unknown rise, that kills
 In darkness, nor infectious ills
 That in the hottest season slay.

PSALM XCVII.

Verses 1, 2, 10, 9, 12, 11.

*In expression of confidence by the Church in the
 Power and Love of her Divine Head.*

JEHOVAH reigns ;—let all the earth
 In His just government rejoice ;
 Let all the Isles, with sacred mirth,
 In His applause unite their voice !
 Darkness and clouds of awful shade
 His dazzling glory shroud in state ;
 Justice and Truth, His guards are made,
 And, fix'd by His pavilion, wait.
 You, who to serve this Lord aspire,
 Abhor what's ill, and truth esteem ;
 Your assail'd faith He'll keep entire,
 And from the tempter's pow'r redeem.
 The Lord the Saviour's seated high :—
 Above Earth's potentates enthron'd,
 He rules the Earth ! He rules the Sky,
 Supreme by highest Angels own'd !
 Rejoice, ye righteous, in the Lord :
 Memorials of His holiness
 Deep in your faithful breasts record,
 And with your thankful tongues confess ;

For seeds they'll prove of glorious light—
 A future harvest for the just ;
 And gladness for the heart that's right,
 To recompense its pious trust.

PSALM XCVIII.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

*The wonders of Divine Grace a cause for univer.
 thanksgiving.*

SING to the Lord a new-made song,
 Who wondrous things has done.
 With His right hand and holy arm
 The conquest He has won !

The Lord has thro' th' astonish'd world
 Display'd His saving might,
 And made His righteous acts appear
 In all the heathen's sight.

Of Israel's house His love and truth
 Have ever mindful been ;
 Wide earth's remotest parts the pow'r
 Of Israel's God have seen.

Let, therefore, earth's inhabitants
 Their cheerful voices raise,
 And all, with universal joy,
Resound their Maker's praise !

PSALM XCIX.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 9.

*The Presence of God to be hailed with reverential
gladness in His Sanctuary.*

JEHOVAH reigns—let therefore all
The guilty nations quake !
On Cherubs' wings He sits enthron'd—
Let earth's foundations shake !
On Sion's hill He keeps his court,
His palace makes her tow'rs ;
Yet thence His sov'reignty extends
Supreme o'er earthly pow'rs !
Let, therefore, all with praise address
His great and dreadful Name ;
And with His unresisted might
His Holiness proclaim.
With worship at His sacred courts
Exalt our God and Lord ;
For He, who only Holy is,
Alone should be ador'd.

PSALM C.

NEW VERSION.

The whole world summoned to the Worship of Jehovah.

WITH one consent let all the earth,
To God their cheerful voices raise ;
Glad homage pay with awful mirth,
And sing before Him songs of praise,

Convinc'd that He is God alone,
 From whom both we and all proceed !
 We, whom He chooses for His own,
 The flock that he vouchsafes to feed !
 O enter then His temple gate ;
 Thence to His courts devoutly press ;
 And still your grateful hymns repeat ;
 And still His Name with praises bless ;
 For He's the Lord, supremely good !
 His mercy is for ever sure !
 His truth, which always firmly stood,
 To endless ages shall endure !

PSALM C.

OLD VERSION.

ALL people, that on earth do dwell,
 Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice ;
 Him serve with fear ; His praise forth tell ;
 Come ye before Him, and rejoice !
 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed ;
 Without our aid He did us make ;
 We are His flock ; He doth us feed ;
 And for His sheep He doth us take.
 O ! enter then His gates with praise,
 Approach with joy His Courts unto ;
 Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do !

For why? The Lord our God is good,
 His mercy is for ever sure ;
 His truth at all times firmly stood,
 And shall from age to age endure !

PSALM CIII.

Verses 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 19.

*The song of Angels can alone express adequately the
 loving-kindness of God.*

My soul, inspir'd with sacred love,
 God's holy Name for ever bless !
 Of all His favours mindful prove
 And still thy grateful thanks express !
 'Tis He, that all thy sins forgives
 And after sickness makes thee sound ;
 From danger He thy life retrieves
 By Him with grace and mercy crown'd !

The Lord abounds with tender love,
 And unexampled acts of grace ;
 His waken'd wrath does slowly move ;
 His willing mercy flows apace ;
 God will not always harshly chide,
 But with His anger quickly part ;
 And loves His punishments to guide
 More by His love than our desert.

As high as Heav'n its Arch extends
 Above this little spot of clay,
 So much His boundless love transcends
 The small respects that we can pay ;

The Lord, the universal King,
 In Heav'n has fix'd His lofty throne ;
 To Him, *ye Angels*, praises sing,
 In whose great strength His pow'r is show'r

PSALM CIV.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

The Creator's Omnipotence.

BLESS God, my soul ! Thou, Lord, alone
 Possessest empire without bounds ;
 With honour Thou art crown'd ; Thy throne
 Eternal majesty surrounds !

With light Thou dost Thyself enrobe,
 And glory for a garment take ;
 Heav'n's curtains stretch beyond the globe,
 Thy canopy of state to make !

God builds on liquid air, and forms
 His palace-chambers in the skies ;
 The clouds His chariot are, and storms
 The swift-wing'd steeds with which He flie

As bright as flame, and swift as wind,
 His ministers heav'n's palace fill,
 To have their sundry tasks assign'd—
All proud to serve their Sov'reign's will.

PSALM CIV.

OLD VERSION.

Verses 2, 3, 4.

The glories of Jehovah's Majesty.

WITH light as a robe
Thou hast Thyself clad,
Whereby all the earth
Thy Greatness may see :
The Heav'ns in such sort
Thou also hast spread
That they to a curtain
Compared may be !

His chamber-beams lie
In the clouds full sure,
Which, as His chariots,
Are made Him to bear :
And there, with much swiftness,
His course doth endure
Upon the wings riding
Of winds in the air :

He maketh His Spirits
As heralds to go
And lightnings to serve
We see also prest ;
His will to accomplish
They run to and fro,
To save or consume things
As seemeth Him best.

PSALM CIV.

Verses 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35.

The Creator's Providential care.

THOU for a moment hid'st thy face—
 The num'rous ranks of creatures mourn !
 Thou tak'st their breath—all nature's race
 Forthwith to mother earth return !
 Again Thou send'st Thy Spirit forth
 T' inspire the mass with vital seed—
 Nature's restor'd, and parent earth
 Smiles on her new-created breed !

Thus through successive ages stands
 Firm fix'd—Thy providential care ;
 Pleas'd with the work of Thy own hands,
 Thou dost the wastes of time repair.
 One look of Thine, one wrathful look,
 Earth's panting breast with terror fills ;
 One touch from Thee with clouds of smoke
 In darkness shrouds the proudest hills.

In praising God, while He prolongs
 My breath, I will that breath employ ;
 And join devotion to my songs,
 Sincere as is in Him my joy.
 While sinners from earth's face are hurl'd,
 My soul, praise Thou His holy Name ;
 Till with my song the list'ning world
 Join concert, and His praise proclaim.

PSALM CVI.

OLD VERSION.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

*all of the blessedness of Christ's redeemed, the believer
prays that it may ever be his portion.*

PRAISE ye the Lord, for He is good ;

His mercy lasts alway ;

Who can express His noble acts,

Or all His praise display ?

They blessed are, that judgment keep,

And justly do alway :

With favour of Thy people, Lord,

Remember me, I pray ;

And with Thy saving health, O Lord,

Vouchsafe to visit me,

That I the great felicity

Of Thine Elect may see ;

And, with Thy people's joy, I may,

A joyful mind possess ;

And may, with Thine inheritance,

A cheerful voice express !

PSALM CVI.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

O Render thanks to God above,

The fountain of eternal love ;

Whose mercy firm through ages past

Has stood, and shall for ever last.

Who can His mighty deeds express,
 Not only vast but numberless ?
 What mortal eloquence can raise
 His tribute of immortal praise ?
 Happy are they, and only they,
 Who from Thy judgments never stray ;
 Who know what's right, nor only so,
 But always practise what they know.
 Extend to me, that favour, Lord,
 Thou to Thy chosen dost afford :
 When Thou return'st to set *them* free,
 Let Thy salvation visit *me*.

PSALM CVI.

Verses 43, 44, 46, 47, 48

Israel's prayer for restoration to God's favour.

WHEN Israel, chasten'd, did repent,
 God's anger did as oft relent ;
 But, freed, they did His wrath provoke ;
 Renew'd their sins ; and He their yoke.
 Not then implacable He prov'd ;
 Nor heard their wretched cries unmov'd ;
 But did to mind His promise bring
 And mercy's inexhausted spring.
 Compassion, too, He did impart
 E'en to their foes' obdurate heart ;
 And pity for their suff'rings bred
In those, who them to bondage led.

Still save us, Lord, and Israel's bands
 Together bring from distant lands ;
 So to Thy Name our thanks we'll raise,
 And ever triumph in Thy praise !
 Let Israel's God be ever bless'd,
 His Name eternally confess'd !
 Let all His saints, with full accord,
 Sing loud Amens,—Praise ye the Lord !

PSALM CVIII.

Verses 4, 1, 6, 12.

*The believer's confidence in Divine protection as given
 in answer to sincere prayer.*

BECAUSE Thy Mercy's boundless height
 The highest Heav'n transcends,
 And far beyond th'aspiring clouds
 Thy faithful Truth extends,

O God, my heart is fully bent
 To magnify Thy Name ;
 My tongue with cheerful songs of praise
 Shall celebrate Thy fame.

That all Thy chosen people Thee
 Their Saviour may declare,
 Let Thy right hand protect them still,
 And answer Thou their pray'r—

'O to Thy servants in distress
 Thy speedy succour send !
 For vain it is on human aid
 For safety to depend !

PSALM CX.

Verses 3, 4, 5.

The Priesthood and Sovereignty of Christ.

THEE, in Thy power's triumphant day,
The willing nations shall obey :

And, when Thy rising beams they view,
Shall all, redeem'd from error's night,
Appear as numberless and bright
As chrystal drops of morning dew.

The Lord hath sworn, nor sworn in vain,
That, like Melchisedeck's, Thy Reign
And Priesthood shall no period know ;
No hostile pow'r Thy Word shall stay ;
E'en Death and Hell shall own Thy sway,
For He in Thee His strength will show.

PSALM CXI.

Verses 1, 7, 9, 10.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

PRAISE ye the Lord ; our God to praise
My soul her utmost pow'rs shall raise,
With private friends, and in the throng
Of saints, His praise shall be my song :
Just are the dealings of His hands,
Immutable are His commands,
By truth and equity sustain'd
And for eternal rules ordain'd.

He set His saints from bondage free,
 And then establish'd His decree,
 For ever to remain the same.
 Holy and rev'rend is His Name !
 Who wisdom's sacred prize would win,
 Must with the fear of God begin !
 Immortal praise and heavenly skill
 Have they, who know and do His will,

PSALM CXII.

Verses 1, 4, 7.

The temporal blessings attendant on Piety.

THAT man is bless'd who stands in awe
 Of God and loves His sacred law :
 His seed on earth shall be renown'd,
 And with successive honours crown'd.
 The soul that's fill'd with virtue's light,
 Shines brightest in affliction's night ;
 To pity the distress'd inclin'd,
 As well as just to all mankind !
 Ill tidings never can surprise
 His heart, that fix'd on God relies :
 On safety's rock he sits ; and sees
 The shipwreck of his enemies.

PSALM CXVI.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7.

A thanksgiving on deliverance from imminent peril.

My soul with grateful thoughts of love
 Entirely is possess,

Because the Lord vouchsaf'd to hear
 The voice of my request.
 Since He has now His ear inclin'd,
 I never will despair ;
 But still in all the straits of life
 To Him address my pray'r.
 With deadly sorrows compass'd round,
 With pains of hell oppress'd,
 When troubles seiz'd my aching heart,
 And anguish rack'd my breast ;
 On God's Almighty Name I call'd,
 And thus to Him I pray'd :
 ' Lord, I beseech thee, save my soul
 With sorrow quite dismay'd.'
 How wholly merciful is God !
 How gracious is the Lord
 Who saves the faithful, and to me
 Does timely help afford !
 Then, free from pensive cares, my soul,
 Resume thy wonted rest ;
 For God has wondrously to thee
 His bounteous love exprest.

PSALM CXVII.

Verses 1, 2, and Gloria Patri.

An invitation to join in songs of praise to God.
 WITH cheerful notes let all the earth
 To Heav'n their voices raise :
 Prize Revelation's saving worth ;
 And sing glad hymns of praise.

God's tender mercy knows no bound ;
 His truth shall ne'er decay :
 Then let the willing nations round
 Their grateful tribute pay !
 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 The God whom we adore,
 Be glory ; as it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore !

PSALM CXVIII.

Verses 20, 22, 24, 29.

*The Christian Sanctuary and Sabbath tend to
 perpetuate the believer's joy.*

WITHIN those gates of God's abode
 To which the righteous press,
 Since He hath heard, and set me safe,
 His holy Name I'll bless.

That which the builders once refus'd
 Is now the Corner-stone !
 This is the wondrous work of God,
 The work of God alone.

This day is God's ; let all the land
 Exalt their cheerful voice :

' Lord, we beseech Thee, save us now,
 And make us still rejoice !'

O ! then with me give thanks to God,
 Who still does gracious prove ;
 And let the tribute of our praise
 Be endless as His love.

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 4, 5, 6, 8.

*The paramount desire of a sincere believer is to be
blessed with Heavenly direction.*

THOU strictly hast enjoin'd us, Lord,
To learn Thy sacred Will,
And all our diligence employ
Thy statutes to fulfil.

O, then, that Thy most holy Will
Might o'er my ways preside,
And I the course of all my life
By Thy direction guide !

Then with assurance should I walk,
From all confusion free ;
Convinc'd with joy, that all my ways
With Thy commands agree ;
So to Thy sacred laws should I
All due observance pay :
O then forsake me not, my God,
Nor cast me quite away !

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 9, 10, 11, 12.

The importance and course of early piety.

How shall the Young preserve their ways
From all pollution free ?
By making e'er their course of life
With Thy commands agree.

With hearty zeal for Thee I seek ;
 To Thee for succour pray ;
 O suffer not my careless steps
 From Thy right paths to stray !
 Safe in my heart, and closely hid,
 Thy Word—my treasure—lies,
 To succour me with timely aid,
 When sinful thoughts arise.
 Secur'd by that, my grateful soul
 Shall ever bless Thy Name ;
 O teach me, then, by Thy just laws
 My future life to frame !

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 29, 30, 31, 32.

The more mature believer's experience and entreaty

FAR, far from me be all false ways
 And lying arts remov'd ;
 But kindly grant I still may keep
 The path by Thee approv'd !
 Thy faithful ways, Thou God of truth,
 My happy choice I've made ;
 Thy judgments, as my rule of life,
 Before me always laid.
 My care has been to make my life
 With Thy commands agree ;
 O then preserve Thy servant, Lord,
 From shame and ruin free !

So in the way of Thy commands
 Shall I with pleasure run,
 And, with a heart enlarg'd with joy,
 Successfully go on.

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 67, 71, 75, 80.

*The confession of a soul tried and purified through
 affliction.*

BEFORE Affliction stopp'd my course,
 My footsteps went astray ;
 But I have since been disciplin'd
 Thy precepts to obey.

'Tis good for me that I have felt
 Affliction's chast'ning rod,
 That I might duly learn and keep
 The statutes of my God.

That right Thy judgments are, I now
 By sure experience see ;
 And that in faithfulness, O Lord,
 Thou hast afflicted me.

In Thy blest statutes let my heart
 Continue always sound ;
 That guilt and shame, the sinner's lot,
 May never me confound !

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 90, 91, and Gloria Patri.

*Praises suggested by the unchangeable nature of
Jehovah's promises and providence.*

THROUGH circling ages, Lord, Thy truth
Immoveable shall stand,
As doth the earth, which Thou uphold'st
By Thy Almighty hand.

All things the course by Thee ordain'd
E'en to this day fulfil;
They are the faithful subjects all,
And servants of Thy will !

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom we adore,
Be glory ; as it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 105, 111, 112, 108.

The prayer of experienced piety.

THY Word is to my feet a lamp,
The way of truth to show ;
A watch-light to point out the path
In which I ought to go.

Thy Testimonies I have made
My heritage and choice ;
For they, when other comforts fail,
My drooping heart rejoice.

My heart with early zeal began
 Thy statutes to obey ;
 And, till my course of life is done,
 Shall keep Thy upright way.
 Let still my sacrifice of praise
 With Thee acceptance find ;
 And in Thy righteous judgments, Lord,
 Instruct my willing mind !

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 129, 130, 132, 135.

A prayer for Divine guidance prefaces the believing study of the Scriptures.

THE wonders which Thy Laws contain,
 No words can represent ;
 Therefore to learn and practise them
 My zealous heart is bent.
 The very entrance to Thy word
 Celestial light displays ;
 And knowledge of true happiness
 To simplest minds conveys.
 With favour, Lord, look down on me,
 Who Thy relief implore ;
 As Thou art wont to visit those
 Who Thy blest Name adore.
 On me, devoted to Thy fear,
 Lord, make Thy face to shine ;
 Thy Statutes both to know and keep
 My heart with zeal incline !

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 156, 155, 159.

A prayer to be exempted from the lot of the ungodly.

SINCE great Thy tender-mercies are

To all who Thee adore ;

According to Thy judgments, Lord,

My fainting hopes restore.

From harden'd sinners Thou remov'st

Salvation far away ;

'Tis just Thou should'st withdraw from them,

Who from Thy Statutes stray.

Yet while they slight, consider, Lord,

How I thy Precepts love ;

O therefore quicken me with beams

Of mercy from above !

PSALM CXIX.

Verses 174, 175, 176.

The anxious prayer of a soul sorrowing over its failings.

My soul has waited long to see

Thy saving grace restor'd ;

Nor comfort knew, but what Thy Laws,

Thy heav'nly Laws afford.

Prolong my life, that I may sing

My great Restorer's praise ;

Whose mercy from the depth of woes

My fainting soul shall raise.

Like some lost sheep I've stray'd, till I
 Despair my way to find ;
 Thou, therefore, Lord, Thy servant seek,
 Who keeps Thy Laws in mind.

PSALM CXXI.

Verses 1, 7, 8, 9.

A real faith knows no fear.

To Sion's hill I lift my eyes,
 From thence expecting aid ;
 From Sion's hill, and Sion's God,
 Who heav'n and earth has made.
 From common accidents of life
 His care shall guard thee still ;
 From the blind strokes of chance, and foes
 That lie in wait to kill.
 At home, abroad, in peace, in war,
 Thy God shall thee defend ;
 Conduct thee through life's pilgrimage
 Safe to thy journey's end.

PSALM CXXII.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 6.

Ancient Israel, joyfully journeying to Zion for purposes of worship, should read a lesson to Christendom

O'TWAS a joyful sound to hear
 Our tribes devoutly say,
*Up, Israel, to the temple haste,
 And keep your festal day.*

At Salem's courts we must appear
 With our assembled pow'rs,
 In strong and beauteous order rang'd,
 Like her united tow'rs.

'Tis thither, by divine command,
 The tribes of God repair,
 Before His ark to celebrate
 His Name with praise and pray'r.

O pray we then for Salem's peace,
 For they shall prosp'rous be,
 (Thou holy city of our God !)
 Who bear true love to thee.

PSALM CXXV.

Verses 1, 2, 5.

*They, who trust in God, have every reason to be
 confident.*

Who place on Sion's God their trust,
 Like Sion's rock shall stand ;
 Like her, immoveably be fix'd .
 By His Almighty hand.

Look how the hills on ev'ry side
 Jerusalem enclose ;
 So stands the Lord around his saints,
 guard them from their foes,

My soul with patience waits
 For Thee, the living Lord ;
 My hopes are on Thy promise built,—
 Thy never-failing Word.

Let Israel trust in God,
 (No bounds His mercy knows ;)
 The plentous Source and Spring from v
 Eternal succour flows,

Whose friendly streams to us
 Supplies in want convey—
 A healing Spring, a Spring to cleanse,
 And wash our guilt away.

PSALM CXXXI.

Verses 1, 2, 3.

*Humility, being blest with increase of grace, is
 a prayer that the whole Church may enjoy the
 blessing.*

O LORD, I am not proud of heart,
 Nor cast a scornful eye;
 Nor my aspiring thoughts employ
 In things for me too high.

With infant innocence Thou know'st
 I have myself demean'd—
 Compos'd to quiet, like a babe,
 That from the breast is wean'd.

Like me, let Israel hope in God,
 His aid alone implore :
 Both now and ever trust in Him,
 Who lives for evermore.

PSALM CXXXII.

Verses 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

*believer's anxiety to erect a becoming Sanctuary
 for the worship and praise of God.*

I WILL not go into my house,
 Nor to my bed ascend ;
 No soft repose shall close my eyes,
 Nor sleep my eyelids bend :
 Till for the Lord's design'd abode,
 I mark the destin'd ground ;
 Till I a decent place of rest
 For Jacob's God have found.
 Th' appointed place, with shouts of joy,
 At Ephrata we found ;
 And made the woods and neighb'ring fields
 Our glad applause resound :
 O with due rev'ence let us, then,
 To His Abode repair ;
 And, prostrate at His footstool fall'n,
 Pour out our humble pray'r !
 Arise, O Lord, and now possess,
 Thy constant place of rest ;
 Be that, not only with Thy ark,
 But with Thy presence blest !

Clothe Thou Thy Priests with righteous
 Make Thou Thy Saints rejoice ;
 And, for Thy servant David's sake,
 Hear Thy Anointed's voice !

PSALM CXXXIII.

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

*The advantage and duty of preserving unity
 Church.*

How vast must their advantage be,
 How great their pleasure prove,
 Who live like brethren, and consent
 In offices of Love !

True Love is like that precious oil,
 Which, pour'd on Aaron's head,
 Ran down his beard, and o'er his robes
 Its costly moisture shed ;

'Tis like refreshing dew, which does
 On Hermon's top distil ;
 Or like the early drops, that fall
 On Sion's fruitful hill ;

For Sion is the chosen seat,
 Where the Almighty King
*The promis'd blessing has ordain'd
 And life's eternal spring.*

PSALM CXXXV.

Verses 1, 2, 3, and Gloria Patri.

A song of praise.

O PRAISE the Lord with one consent,
 And magnify His Name ;
 Let all the servants of the Lord
 His worthy praise proclaim.

Praise Him all ye, that in His house
 Attend with constant care ;
 With those, that to His outmost courts
 With humble zeal repair.

For this our truest int'rest is,
 Glad hymns of praise to sing ;
 And with loud songs to bless His Name,
 A most delightful thing.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 The God whom we adore,
 Be glory ; as it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.

PSALM CXXXVI.

Verses 1, 4, 23, 25.

*The joy of the renewed mind in recounting God's
 works of love.*

To God, the mighty Lord,
 Your joyful thanks repeat ;

To Him due praise afford,
As good as He is great ;
For God does prove
Our constant Friend ;
His boundless love
Shall never end !

By His Almighty hand
Amazing works are wrought,
The Heav'ns by His command,
Were to perfection brought ;
For God, &c.

He, in our depth of woes,
On us with favour thought,
And from our cruel foes
In peace and safety brought ;
For God, &c.

He does the food supply
On which all creatures live :
To God who reigns on high,
Eternal praises give ;
For God will prove
Our constant friend ;
His boundless love
Shall never end !

PSALM CXXXVII.

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5.

*he sorrows of captive Israel truly express the feelings
of a soul ; that has fallen indeed from grace given, but
longs for restoration to peaceful communion with God.*

WHEN we, our wearied limbs to rest,
Sat down by proud Euphrates' stream,
We wept, with doleful thoughts opprest,
And Sion was our mournful theme.

Our harps, that, when with joy we sung,
Were wont their tuneful parts to bear,
With silent strings neglected hung
On willow trees that wither'd there.

How shall we tune our voice to sing ?
Or touch our harps with skilful hands ?
Shall hymns of joy to God our King,
Be sung by slaves in foreign lands ?

O Salem, our once happy seat,
When I of thee forgetful prove,
Then let my trembling hand forget
The speaking strings with art to move !

PSALM CXXXIX.

Verses 1, 3, 5, 23.

*Reflections on the Omnipresence and Omniscience of
the Almighty.*

THOU, Lord, by strictest search hast known
My rising up and lying down ;

My secret thoughts are known to Thee,
 Known long before conceiv'd by me.
 'Thine eye my bed and path surveys,
 My publick haunts and private ways ;
 Thou know'st what 'tis my lips would ve
 My yet unutter'd words' intent.
 Surrounded by Thy pow'r I stand ;
 On ev'ry side I find Thy hand :
 O skill, for human reach too high !
 Too dazzling bright for mortal eye !
 Search, try, O God, my thoughts and he
 If mischief lurks in any part,
 Correct me where I go astray,
 And guide me in Thy perfect way !

PSALM CXLIII.

Verses 1, 2, 7, 8, 10.

*The tempted believer, conscious of his own insuffi
 implores Divine support.*

LORD, hear my pray'r, and to my cry
 Thy wonted audience lend ;
 In Thy accustom'd faith and truth
 A gracious answer send ;
 Nor at Thy strict tribunal bring
 Thy servant to be tried ;
 For, in Thy sight, no living man
 Can e'er be justified !

Hear me with speed ; my spirit fails ;

Thy face no longer hide,

Lest I become forlorn, like them

That in the grave reside.

Thy kindness early let me hear,

Whose trust on Thee depends ;

Teach me the way where I should go ;

My soul to Thee ascends !

Thou art my God,—Thy righteous will

Instruct me to obey ;

Let Thy good spirit lead and keep

My soul in Thy right way !

PSALM CXLIV.

Verses 3, 13, 14, 15.

A thanksgiving for plenty.

LORD, what's in man that Thou should'st love

Of him such tender care to take ?

What in his offspring could Thee move

Such great account of him to make ?

Our garners, fill'd with various store,

Do us and our's with plenty feed ;

Our sheep, increasing more and more

Do thousands and ten thousands breed.

Strong do our lab'ring oxen grow,

Nor in their constant labour faint ;

Whilst we no war nor slav'ry know,

And in our streets hear no complaint.

Thrice happy is that people's case,
 Whose various blessings thus abound
 Who God's true worship still embrace,
 And are with His protection crown'd.

PSALM CXLV.

Verses 8, 9, 11, 16, 17.

• *A celebration of the Divine goodness.*
 THE Lord is good ; fresh acts of grace
 His pity still supplies ;
 His anger moves with slowest pace,
 His willing mercy flies.
 His love through earth extends its fame
 In all His works express'd ;
 These show His praise, whilst His great
 Is by His servants bless'd.
 They, with the glorious prospect fir'd,
 Shall of His Kingdom speak ;
 And His great Pow'r, by all admir'd,
 Their lofty subject make.
 Whate'er their various wants require,
 With open hand He gives ;
 And so fulfils the just desire
 Of ev'ry thing that lives.
 How holy is the Lord ! how just,
 How righteous all His ways !
How nigh to him, who, with firm trust,
For His assistance prays !

PSALM CXLVI.

Verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 10.

*e folly of placing our dependence elsewhere than
on God.*

ON kings, the greatest sons of men,
Let none for aid rely ;
They cannot save in dang'rous times,
Nor timely help apply.

Depriv'd of breath, to dust they turn ;
And there neglected lie ;
And all their thoughts and vain designs,
Together with them, die.

Then happy he, who Jacob's God
For his protector takes ;
Who still with well-plac'd hope the Lord
His constant refuge makes.

The Lord, who made both Heav'n and Earth
And all that they contain,
Will never quit His steadfast truth,
Nor make His promise vain.

The God, that does in Sion dwell,
Is our eternal King ;
From age to age His reign endures ;
Let all His praises sing.

PSALM CXLVIII.

Verses 1, 3, 5, 13.

All Creation invited to unite in praising the Great Creator.

YE boundless realms of joy,
 Exalt your Maker's fame ;
 His praise your song employ
 Above the starry frame ;
 Your voices raise,
 Ye cherubim
 And seraphim,
 To sing His praise !

Thou moon, that rul'st the night,
 And sun, that guid'st the day ;
 Ye glitt'ring stars of light,
 To Him your homage pay ;
 His praise declare,
 Ye heav'ns above,
 And clouds that move
 In liquid air !

Let them adore the Lord,
 And praise His holy Name,
 By whose Almighty Word
 They all from nothing came ;
 And all shall last
 From changes free ;—
 His firm decree
Stands ever fast.

United zeal be shown,
 His wondrous fame to raise,
 Whose glorious Name alone,
 Deserves our endless praise.
 Earth's utmost ends
 His pow'r obey ;
 His glorious sway
 The sky transcends.

PSALM CL.

Verses 1, 2, 6, and Gloria Patri.

*An acknowledgment of our obligation to praise God's
 Holy Name.*

O PRAISE the Lord in that blest place,
 From whence His goodness largely flows ;
 Praise Him in heav'n, where He His face
 Unveil'd in perfect glory shows.
 Praise Him for all the mighty acts,
 Which He in our behalf has done ;
 His kindness this return exacts,
 With which our praise should equal run.
 Let all, that vital breath enjoy,
 The breath He does to them afford
 In just returns of praise employ :—
 Let ev'ry creature praise the Lord !
 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 The God whom earth and heav'n adore,
 Be glory ; as it was of old,
 Is now, and shall be evermore !

PSALM XVIII.

Verses 9, 11, 13, 15, 42.

*Hymn of the Church risen and victorious in Christ
her Head.*

HE left the beauteous Realms of Light,
 Whilst Heav'n bow'd down its awful head ;
 Beneath His feet substantial night
 Was, like a sable carpet, spread.

Black wat'ry mists and clouds conspired
 With thickest shades His face to veil ;
 But, at His brightness, soon retir'd,
 And fell in show'rs of fire and hail.

Through Heav'n's wide Arch a thund'ring peal
 God's angry voice did loudly roar ;
 While earth's sad face with heaps of hail
 And flakes of fire was cover'd o'er.

Let the Eternal Lord be praised—
 The Rock, on whose defence I rest !
 O'er highest Heav'ns His Name be rais'd,
 Who me with His salvation blest !

HYMNS.

FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

Morning Service.

HIGH let us swell our tuneful notes,
 And join th' angelic throng,
For Angels no such love have known
T' awake a cheerful song.

Good-will to sinful men is shown,
 And peace on earth is given ;
 For, lo ! th' incarnate Saviour comes
 With messages from Heaven.

Justice and grace, with sweet accord,
 His rising beams adorn ;
 Let Heav'n and Earth in concert join,
 To us a Child is born.
 Glory to God in highest strains,
 In highest world be paid ;
 His glory by our lips proclaim'd,
 And by our lives display'd.

When shall we reach those blissful realms
 Where Christ exalted reigns ;
 And learn of the celestial choir
 Their own immortal strains ?

Evening Service.

HARK, the herald angels sing,
 Glory to the new-born King,
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconcil'd !
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise ;
 Join the triumph of the skies,
 With th' angelic host proclaim,
 " Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Hark, the herald angels sing,
 Glory to the new-born King !

Christ, by highest Heav'n ador'd,
 Christ the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come,
 Offspring of a virgin's womb :
 Veil'd in flesh the Godhead He,
 Hail th' incarnate Deity !
 Pleas'd as man with man appear,
 Jesus our Immanuel, here !

Hark, the herald angels, &c.

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace !
 Hail the Sun of righteousness !
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Ris'n with healing in His wings.
 Mild He lays His glory by,
 Born that man no more may die !
 Born to raise the sons of earth !
 Born to give them second birth !

Hark, the herald angels, &c.

FOR EASTER DAY.

First Hymn.

SINCE Christ, our passover, is slain
 A sacrifice for all ;
 Let all with thankful hearts agree
 To keep the festival ;
 Not with the leaven, as of old,
 Of sin and malice fed ;
 But with unfeign'd sincerity,
 And truth's unleaven'd bread.

Christ, being rais'd by pow'r divine,
 And rescu'd from the grave,
 Shall die no more; death shall on Him
 No more dominion have.
 For, that he died, 'twas for our sins
 He once vouchsaf'd to die;
 But, that he lives, he lives to God
 For all eternity.
 So count yourselves as dead to sin,
 But graciously restor'd,
 And made henceforth alive to God,
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Hymn.

CHRIST from the dead is rais'd, and made
 The first-fruits of the tomb;
 For, as by man came death, by man
 Did resurrection come.
 For, as in Adam all mankind
 Did guilt and death derive,
 So, by the righteousness of Christ,
 Shall all be made alive.
 If then ye risen are with Christ,
 Seek only how to get
 The things that are above, where Christ
 At God's right hand doth sit.

Third Hymn.

JESUS Christ is risen to-day,
 Our triumphant holy day,

Who did once, upon the Cross,
Suffer to redeem our loss.

Hallelujah !

Hymns of praise, then, let us sing
Unto Christ our Heavenly King,
Who endur'd the Cross and Grave,
Sinners to redeem and save.

Hallelujah !

But the pain which He endur'd,
Our salvation hath procur'd ;
Now above the sky He's King,
Where the Angels ever sing

Hallelujah !

FOR WHITSUNDAY.

First Hymn.

COME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire :
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart :
Thy blessed Unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love !

Enable with perpetual light
The dulness of our blinded sight :
Anoint our heart and cheer our face,
With the abundance of Thy grace :
*Keep far our foes ; give peace at home ;
Where Thou art Guide, no ill can come !*

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
 And Thee of Both, to be but One ;
 That, through the ages all along,
 This still may be our endless song—
 “Praise to Thine eternal merit,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit !”

Second Hymn.

COME, Holy Ghost, Eternal God,
 Proceeding from above,
 Both from the Father and the Son,
 The God of peace and love ;
 Visit our minds, into our hearts
 Thy Heavenly grace inspire ;
 That truth and godliness we may
 Pursue with full desire.
 Thou art the Very Comforter
 In grief and all distress ;
 The Heavenly gift of God Most High—
 No tongue can it express ;
 The Fountain and the living Spring
 Of joy celestial ;
 The Fire so bright, the Love so sweet
 The Uction Spiritual !

FOR TRINITY-SUNDAY.

OF strife and of dissension
 Dissolve, O Lord, the bands,
 And knit the knots of peace and love
 Throughout all Christian lands.

Grant us the grace, that we may know
The Father of all might,
That we of His Beloved Son
May gain the blissful sight ;
And that we may, with perfect faith,
Ever acknowledge Thee,
The Spirit of Father and of Son,
One God in Persons Three !
To God the Father laud and praise,
And to His Blessed Son,
And to the Holy Spirit of Grace,
Co-equal Three in One !
And pray we that our only Lord
Would please His Spirit to send
On all, that shall profess His name
From hence to the world's end ! *Amen.*

FOR THE SACRAMENT.

My God, and is Thy Table spread,
And doth Thy cup with love o'erflow ?
Thither be all Thy children led,
And let them all Thy sweetness know.
Hail, sacred feast, which Jesus makes,
Rich banquet of His flesh and blood !
Thrice happy he who here partakes
That sacred stream, that heav'nly food.
*Why are its dainties all in vain
Before unwilling hearts display'd ?*

Was not for you the Victim slain ?
 Are you forbid the children's bread ?
 O ! let Thy table honour'd be,
 And furnish'd well with joyful guests ;
 And may each soul Sálvation see,
 That here its sacred pledges tastes !
 Let crowds approach ; with hearts prepar'd,
 With hearts inflam'd, let all attend ;
 Nor, when we leave our Father's board,
 The pleasure or the profit end.
 Revive Thy dying Churches, Lord,
 And bid our drooping graces live ;
 And more that energy afford,
 A Saviour's blood alone can give.

FOR THE MORNING.

AWAKE, my soul ; and, with the sun,
 Thy daily stage of duty run ;
 Shake off dull sloth ; and early rise
 To pay thy morning sacrifice.
 Redeem thy mispent moments past,
 And live this day as if the last ;
 Thy talents to improve take care ;
 For the Great Day thyself prepare.
 Let all thy converse be sincere,
 Thy conscience as the noon-day clear ;
 For God's all-seeing eye surveys
 Thy secret thoughts, thy works and ways.

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
 And with the Angels bear thy part ;
 Who, all night long, unwearied sing,
 " High glory to th' Eternal King ! "

FOR THE EVENING.

GLORY to Thee, my God, this night,
 For all the blessings of the light ;
 Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
 Beneath thy own almighty wings !

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
 The ill that I this day have done ;
 That, with the world, myself, and Thee,
 I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread
 The grave as little as my bed ;
 Teach me to die, that so I may
 Rise glorious at the awful day.

O let my soul on Thee repose !
 And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close ;
 Sleep, that shall me more vig'rous make,
 To serve my God, when I awake.

If in the night I sleepless lie,
 My soul with Heavenly thoughts supply ;
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